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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of a computer network in establishing communication between a first network device and a second network device, the network including a policy device that controls policy data relating to the communication, the method comprising:

    storing policy data in a storage device accessible by a third network device, the policy data being:

- (i) provided by the policy device in response to a communication resource reservation request message from the first network device to the second network device, and
- (ii) specifically related to communication between the first network device and the second network device;

    receiving with the third network device a confirmation message sent by the second network device in response to the communication resource reservation request message, the confirmation message indicating that the second network device is prepared to have communications with the first network device; and

    forwarding from the third network device to the first network device the stored policy data with the confirmation message.

2. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

3. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

4. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, further comprising:  
    marking data traffic directed from the first network device to the second network device according to the stored policy.

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5. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the policy device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

6. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) marking.

7. (original) The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus in a computer network for establishing communication between a first network device and a second network device, the network including a policy device that controls policy data relating to the communication, the apparatus comprising:

a storage module for storing policy data in a storage device accessible by a third network device, the policy data being:

(i) provided by the policy device in response to a communication resource reservation request message from the first network device to the second network device, and

(ii) specifically related to communication between the first network device and the second network device; and..

a message interface module in the third network device that:

(i) receives a confirmation message sent by the second network device in response to the communication resource reservation request message, the confirmation message indicating that the second network device is prepared to have communications with the first network device, and

(ii) forwards to the first network device the stored policy data with the confirmation message.

9. (original) The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

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10. (original) The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

11. (original) The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the policy device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

12. (original) The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) marking.

13. (original) The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.

14. (currently amended) A computer program product for use on a computer system in establishing communication in a computer network between a first network device and a second network device, the network including a policy device that controls policy data relating to the communication, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, the computer readable program code comprising:

program code for storing policy data in a storage device accessible by a third network device, the policy data being:

(i) provided by the policy device in response to a communication resource reservation request message from the first network device to the second network device, and

(ii) specifically related to communication between the first network device and the second network device;

program code for receiving with the third network device a confirmation message sent by the second network device in response to the communication resource reservation request message, the confirmation message indicating that the second network device is prepared to have communications with the first network device; and

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program code for forwarding from the third network device to the first network device the stored policy data with the confirmation message.

15. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, wherein the network devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

16. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, wherein the network devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

17. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, further comprising: program code for marking data traffic directed from the first network device to the second network device according to the stored policy.

18. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, wherein the policy device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

19. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, wherein the stored policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point (DSCP) marking.

20. (original) The computer program product as defined by claim 14, wherein the stored policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.